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***The Virginia Commission for the Arts
Awards \$91,206 in Grants to Teachers throughout Virginia***

December 20, 2006 The Virginia Commission for the Arts has selected 320 teachers from schools throughout Virginia to receive *2006-2007 Teacher Incentive Grants*.

The Commission awarded \$91,206 to help teachers develop creative projects which link the arts with non-arts learning objectives. The projects will take place between January 1, 2007, and June 30, 2007. Elementary or secondary classroom teachers currently employed by a Virginia educational institution (PK-12) were eligible to apply. A statewide panel selected the funded applications on the basis of their creativity, innovation, and how the arts activity or art form would support Virginia's non-arts Standards of Learning objectives.

Each year the Teacher Incentive Grant Program provides limited financial assistance of up to \$300 to individual elementary or secondary teachers to underwrite arts resources or programming for the classroom, to hire arts consultants or professional artists for creative short-term classroom arts activities, or to purchase materials for an innovative classroom arts project. Projects link architecture, creative writing (fiction/poetry), dance, folk arts, music, theatre, visual art, film/video, or a combination of arts disciplines with learning objectives in mathematics, science, social studies, and English/language arts.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts is the state agency that supports the arts through funding from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Commission distributes grants to artists, arts and other not-for-profit organizations, educational institutions, arts educators, and local governments and provides technical assistance in arts management.

For further information about the Arts Education Programs of the Commission, please visit www.arts.virginia.gov or contact Tatjana Franke Beylotte, Arts in Education Coordinator at (804)225-3132 or tatjana.beylotte@arts.virginia.gov.

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